

Needs Assessment

NA-05 Overview

Needs Assessment Overview

The Needs Assessment portion of this Consolidated Plan, along with information gathered from the citizen participation process and surveys, consultations and other plans, provides a clear picture of the City of Burlington's needs as they relate to affordable housing, community development and homelessness.

The Plan examines housing need in relation to housing problems including cost burdened and also by income level and household type. Under the section termed Disproportionately Greater Need, housing needs based on racial disparities is examined. A summary of the needs of public housing residents is provided. In addition, the nature and extent of unsheltered and sheltered homelessness in the jurisdiction is described. The housing needs of those who are not homeless but require supportive housing, including the elderly, frail elderly, persons with disabilities, persons with alcohol or other drug addictions and persons with HIV/AIDS and their families is examined. In addition to housing needs, the Needs Assessment examines the City's priority non-housing community development needs including the need for new or renovated public facilities, public improvements and public services.

General Demographics

The City of Burlington is located on the eastern shores of Lake Champlain. It is the largest city in the State of Vermont. According to the 2010 Census, the population of Burlington is 42,417 residents. The population of the City has been increasing at a very slow rate since 1960 as noted in the graph below. The City lies 45 miles south of the Canadian border. Burlington is part of Chittenden County and the population of the County is 156,545. The population of the County is increasing at a slightly higher rate than that of the City. The population of Vermont stands at 625,741 and although it has been increasing at a steady rate, has slowed significantly in the last decade. Burlington is part of the Burlington-South Burlington metropolitan area, which encompasses the counties of Chittenden, Franklin and Grand Isle. Burlington represents only a small portion, 1.66%, of the County land area.

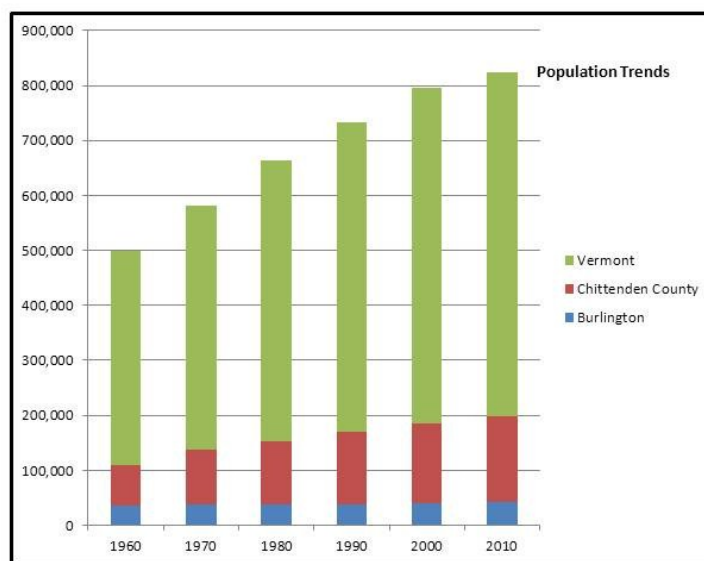
Burlington is the heart of the largest urbanized region in Vermont and is Vermont's principal economic and cultural engine. Burlington is home to the University of Vermont, Champlain College, the Flynn Theater, Church Street Marketplace and national companies including Burton Snowboards and Lake Champlain Chocolates. Burlington remains the birthplace of Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream and the band Phish.

Of the City residents, 86.5% are ages 18 and older. Those over 65 comprise 9.4% of the population. Children under 18 are 13.5% of the population and children under 5 are 4.1% of the population. The median age in Burlington is 26.5 years. The population of Burlington is becoming more and more diverse. For the following statistics, the 2010 Census figures by race and ethnicity are compared to the 2000 statistics in parentheses. The majority of the Burlington population, 88.9% (92.3%) remains White. Black/African Americans comprise 3.9% (1.8%) of the population and Asians are

3.6% (2.6%) of the total population. Hispanic or Latino of any race consists of 2.7% (1.4%) of the Burlington population.

As of the 2010 Census, there were 16,897 housing units and 16,119 that were occupied. Over 59% of the housing stock is renter-occupied; whereas 41% is owner-occupied.

Burlington is considered a vibrant city and one of America's most livable communities. In 2008, the Center for Disease Control names Burlington the healthiest city. In 2010, Kiplinger counted Burlington #8 as the Best City in the Next Decade. Most recently, in 2012, the Men's and Women's Health Magazine ranked Burlington as the healthiest city for men.



NA-10 Housing Needs Assessment

Summary of Housing Needs

This section of the Plan provides a concise summary of the City's estimated housing needs projected for the next five years. These pre-populated tables have been provided by HUD and these tables describe levels of housing need by income range, family type and type of housing problems. The information in the tables confirm that the City has a high number of both renter and owner-occupied households that are cost-burdened, spending well over 30% of their income in housing. The citizen participation survey also indicated that affordable housing was the most critical need in the City with almost 78% of the respondents listing it as a high priority.

Demographics	2000 Census (Base Year)	2005-2009 ACS (Most Recent Year)	% Change
Population	38,889	38,630	-1%
Households	16,395	15,156	-8%
Median Income	\$33,070.00	\$38,598.00	17%

Table 1 - Housing Needs Assessment Demographics

Data Source: 2005-2009 ACS Data
2000 Census (Base Year)
2005-2009 ACS (Most Recent Year)

Number of Households Table

	0-30% HAMFI	>30-50% HAMFI	>50-80% HAMFI	>80-100% HAMFI	>100% HAMFI
Total Households *	3,310	2,330	3,190	1,465	
Small Family Households *	750	555	865	3,020	
Large Family Households *	55	90	85	180	
Household contains at least one person 62-74 years of age	239	225	260	155	665
Household contains at least one person age 75 or older	365	290	210	100	315
Households with one or more children 6 years old or younger *	345	275	365	765	
* the highest income category for these family types is >80% HAMFI					

Table 2 - Total Households Table

Data Source: 2005-2009 CHAS

Housing Needs Summary Tables for several types of Housing Problems

1. Housing Problems (Households with one of the listed needs)

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total
Substandard Housing - Lacking complete plumbing or kitchen facilities	50	10	25	0	85	0	0	0	0	0
Severely Overcrowded - With >1.51 people per room (and complete kitchen and plumbing)	10	0	35	35	80	0	0	0	0	0
Overcrowded - With 1.01-1.5 people per room (and none of the above problems)	25	0	25	0	50	0	10	0	0	10
Housing cost burden greater than 50% of income (and none of the above problems)	1,955	700	175	0	2,830	290	205	265	55	815
Housing cost burden greater than 30% of income (and none of the above problems)	445	830	880	75	2,230	45	175	340	365	925
Zero/negative Income (and none of the above problems)	105	0	0	0	105	20	0	0	0	20

Table 3 – Housing Problems Table

Data Source: 2005-2009 CHAS

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2. Housing Problems 2 (Households with one or more Severe Housing Problems: Lacks kitchen or complete plumbing, severe overcrowding, severe cost burden)

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total
Having 1 or more of four housing problems	2,040	710	260	35	3,045	290	215	265	55	825
Having none of four housing problems	805	1,140	1,900	680	4,525	55	270	765	695	1,785
Household has negative income, but none of the other housing problems	105	0	0	0	105	20	0	0	0	20

Table 4 – Housing Problems 2

Data Source: 2005-2009 CHAS

3. Cost Burden > 30%

	Renter				Owner			
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total
Small Related	565	365	230	1,160	70	125	185	380
Large Related	50	65	4	119	0	10	25	35
Elderly	310	165	25	500	95	180	115	390
Other	1,545	935	795	3,275	175	80	275	530
Total need by income	2,470	1,530	1,054	5,054	340	395	600	1,335

Table 5 – Cost Burden > 30%

Data Source: 2005-2009 CHAS

4. Cost Burden > 50%

	Renter				Owner			
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total
Small Related	410	165	50	625	70	90	80	240
Large Related	40	0	0	40	0	10	25	35
Elderly	155	35	0	190	70	45	40	155
Other	1,385	500	125	2,010	155	70	120	345
Total need by income	1,990	700	175	2,865	295	215	265	775

Table 6 – Cost Burden > 50%

Data Source: 2005-2009 CHAS

5. Crowding (More than one person per room)

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total
Single family households	25	0	0	0	25	0	10	0	0	10
Multiple, unrelated family households	10	0	25	0	35	0	0	0	0	0
Other, non-family households	0	0	35	0	35	0	0	0	0	0
Total need by income	35	0	60	0	95	0	10	0	0	10

Table 7 – Crowding Information

Data Source: 2005-2009 CHAS

What are the most common housing problems?

For purposes of the CDBG program, HUD defines extremely low-income households to be those with income less than 30% of the median family income for the local area. Low-income households are those between 30% and 50% of median. Moderate-income households are those between 50% and 80% of median, and middle-income households are those between 80% and 95% of median. (Under the HOME program, the term 'low-income' is defined as at or below 80% of median and 'very low-income' is at or below 50% of median.) HUD receives a special tabulation of data from the Census that analyzes it by income group, household type, and housing problems in data sets called the 'CHAS.' These data sets identify three types of housing problems: cost burden (paying more than 30% of household income for housing), overcrowding (more than one person per room) and lack of complete plumbing or kitchen facilities. Cost burden becomes 'extreme' when households are paying more than 50% of their income for housing. Overcrowding becomes 'extreme' when there are more than one and a half persons per room. In the tables above, it is clear that in Burlington, for both renters and owners, at all income levels and across all household types, cost burden is the most pressing housing problem. Among renters, not surprisingly, the level of cost burden decreases as income increases, with very few middle income renters experiencing problems. However, 51% of all renter households are cost-burdened. Cost burden is most acute among extremely low-income renters with 69% paying more than 30% of their income for housing. Among homeowners, cost burden is an issue across all income levels, with the highest number of affected homeowners in the moderate-income level.

Overcrowding is not a significant problem in Burlington, even among large families. Overall, there were a total of 95 of renter households experiencing overcrowding, with 45 experiencing severe overcrowding. Although there is no way to measure, it seems likely that most overcrowding may be occurring among student renters. It is also possible that some level of overcrowding occurs among refugee households. Among homeowners, 20 are experiencing overcrowding, with no households experiencing severe overcrowding.

According to the CHAS data, there were 85 renter households and no owner households in Burlington that lacked complete kitchen or plumbing facilities. The City's Code Enforcement Office would not allow this situation to occur, so it is difficult to understand the reported data. The City was unable to determine from HUD whether SROs and boarding houses may be counted here, which would account for some of this data. It is also possible that some units were undergoing renovations and temporarily lacked plumbing or kitchen facilities.

Are any populations/household types more affected than others by these problems?

In Tables 5, 6 and 7 housing need data for different types of household: elderly (age 62 and older), small family (2 to 4 members), large family (5 or more members) and other (mostly single adults) - through the middle-income level is displayed. The charts show the total number of households experiencing either cost burden > 30%, >50% and overcrowding.

When households are broken out by household type, the large college student population in Burlington affects the data, particularly for renter households. The approximately 6,000 college

students living off campus principally show up in the 'other' category of renters and inflate the level of need that appears there. The level of need among small family renter households and elderly renters is more accurately represented. Large family renters are a relatively small group in Burlington. Proportionally, they experience more housing problems than do small family renters, but in overall numbers, the need is less.

Among homeowners, there are roughly equivalent levels of need among small family and "other" households. Elderly homeowners are experiencing the next highest level of need, with large families again being the smallest group among the four types of households.

Describe the characteristics and needs of Low-income individuals and families with children (especially extremely low-income) who are currently housed but are at imminent risk of either residing in shelters or becoming unsheltered 91.205(c)/91.305(c)). Also discuss the needs of formerly homeless families and individuals who are receiving rapid re-housing assistance and are nearing the termination of that assistance

The populations most at risk of becoming homeless are:

- Extremely low-income households who are extremely cost burdened. According to Table 7, there were 1,955 such households in Burlington. For these households, one emergency - a medical crisis, a car that stops working, or one upswing in expenses - rising heating costs - can mean the difference between remaining housed and becoming homeless.
- Victims of domestic violence. Thirty-two percent of the temporary housing (motel) days paid for by the state during the last fiscal year were related to domestic violence. Domestic violence was the single largest contributing factor to housing insecurity.
- People who are housed only through doubling up or couch surfing with friends or relatives. Although not "homeless" within the federal definition, the housing situation of these residents is highly precarious. Offering a bed or a sofa may also endanger the host's housing situation.
- Those suffering from mental illness and/or co-occurring disorders. Although the existing safety net of supportive housing does not meet all needs, many residents would become homeless - or would return to homelessness - without the housing and services that do exist.
- Youth aging out of foster care. Vermont now allows youth who have reached their legal age of 18 to voluntarily extend supports and services received from the Department of Children and Families through age 22. Hopefully, this extension of services will more realistically allow young people in state custody to become and remain self-sufficient and stably housed.
- Youth thrown out of their homes because of their sexual or gender orientation. The local youth homeless service provider, Spectrum Youth & Family Services, reports that it is seeing a number of youth in this situation.
- People exiting the corrections system. There is an Offender Re-entry Housing Plan in Burlington which seeks to ensure that offenders are not discharged early without a housing plan. The local correctional facility, probation and parole office have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Burlington Housing Authority to work together to

ensure that housing is available upon release. In addition, prior to exiting prison, inmates are engaged in a housing search, obtaining proper identification and applying for mainstream resources, such as food stamps. Nonetheless, a criminal history remains a significant barrier in the housing market.

The needs of formerly homeless families and individuals who are receiving rapid re-housing assistance include:

- Credit rebuilding due to lack of credit or poor credit. Most landlords today run credit checks on all applicants and even if the applicant can show they can afford to pay the rent, they may be denied based on their credit history. This especially affects young people looking for their first apartments, and New Americans who have not been here long enough to establish themselves financially. In an attempt to fit into their new communities and role as householders, both of these groups may be especially vulnerable to offers to purchase furnishings from rent-to-own companies without understanding the obligation they are assuming. They may also contract for expensive cable and Internet packages or auto loans which may affect their ability to maintain housing in the long run.
- Asset building for vulnerable families. Asset building is not just a conversation for the wealthy but an important piece of an anti-poverty strategy. Households struggling with day to day survival need to be taught basic budgeting and saving techniques in order to develop an extra economic cushion.
- Advocacy with landlords. Conversations between landlords and tenants are essential to improving unsafe living conditions. Developing good communication with landlords and knowledge of landlord/tenant law are key aspects to secure housing and decreased risk of homelessness.

Specify particular housing characteristics that have been linked with instability and an increased risk of homelessness

There is little evidence that specific housing characteristics such as overcrowding, substandard housing or even high fuel costs are linked with instability and increased risk of homelessness. More prominent would be the characteristics and needs of individuals and families that may contribute to their ability to maintain housing. These characteristics include substance abuse and mental health issues, hoarding, generational poverty, intergenerational conflict within the home and severe cost burden.

However, people desperate to find housing will often take the first place that becomes available to them. Some of the housing available clients being served by local nonprofits do not meet safety code standards. This may create unsafe living conditions for both children and adults. Many tenants report that their landlords are not responsive to requests for repairs. Many apartments have not been weatherized, and some tenants end up paying as much for utilities as they do for rent. If they fall behind with their utilities, they may be evicted for that reason.

NA-15 Disproportionately Greater Need: Housing Problems

Assess the need of any racial or ethnic group that has disproportionately greater need in comparison to the needs of that category of need as a whole.

Introduction

Assessing disproportionate need in Burlington on a percentage basis is complicated by the relatively low number of minority households in the City. In the charts below, HUD's definition of housing problems includes cost burden, overcrowding and lack of complete plumbing/kitchen as the need and the charts demonstrate, by race/ethnicity and income, the households overall which have a housing need compared to the jurisdiction as a whole.

0%-30% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	2,820	370	125
White	2,590	300	85
Black / African American	65	55	0
Asian	70	0	40
American Indian, Alaska Native	10	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	39	15	0

Table 8 - Disproportionally Greater Need 0 - 30% AMI

Data Source: 2005-2009 CHAS

*The four housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than one person per room, 4. Cost Burden greater than 30%

30%-50% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	1,935	395	0
White	1,710	355	0
Black / African American	70	4	0

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Asian	40	0	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	15	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	70	0	0

Table 9 - Disproportionally Greater Need 30 - 50% AMI

Data Source: 2005-2009 CHAS

*The four housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than one person per room, 4. Cost Burden greater than 30%

50%-80% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	1,740	1,445	0
White	1,685	1,335	0
Black / African American	0	25	0
Asian	20	0	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	10	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	0	0	0

Table 10 - Disproportionally Greater Need 50 - 80% AMI

Data Source: 2005-2009 CHAS

*The four housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than one person per room, 4. Cost Burden greater than 30%

80%-100% of Area Median Income

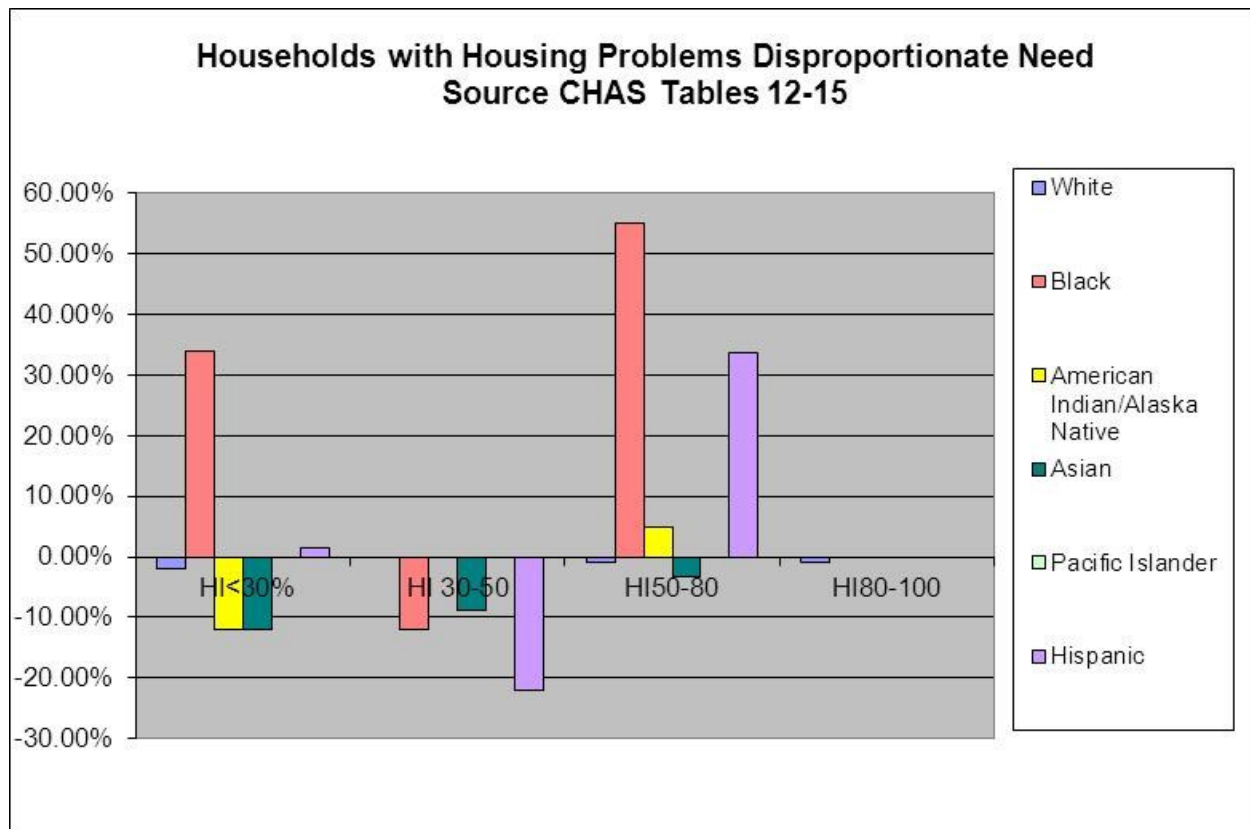
Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	525	940	0
White	470	885	0
Black / African American	0	30	0
Asian	0	15	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	4	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	20	0	0

Table 11 - Disproportionally Greater Need 80 - 100% AMI

Data Source: 2005-2009 CHAS

*The four housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than one person per room, 4. Cost Burden greater than 30%



Graph 1 - Housing Problems: Disproportionate Need

Discussion

In Tables 12- 15, households overall, by race/ethnicity, which have an overall need are compared to the jurisdiction as a whole. The graph then displays the difference between the percentage of households overall which have a housing need and the percentage of households in each minority group which have a housing need. Among households in Burlington, on a percentage basis disproportionate need appears among the following groups:

- Asians with household income under 30%. There are 70 households in this category. Also in this category are American Indian/Alaska Native with 10 families.
- Low-income households of Black/African American, Asian and Hispanic descent. In this category, there are a total of 70 Black/African American, 40 Asian and 70 Hispanic households.
- Moderate-income renters of Asian descent. In this category, there are 20 Asian households. This is a considerable decrease from the previous 5-year Plan.
- Hispanic households with household income over 80% identify 20 families in this category.

NA-20 Disproportionately Greater Need: Severe Housing Problems

Assess the need of any racial or ethnic group that has disproportionately greater need in comparison to the needs of that category of need as a whole.

Introduction

Assessing disproportionately greater needs in Burlington on a percentage basis is complicated by the relatively low number of minority households in the City of Burlington. Using HUD-defined severe housing problems (i.e., lacks complete kitchen facilities, complete plumbing facilities, more than 1.5 persons per room and a cost burden over 50%) as the definition of need, the charts show, by race/ethnicity and income, the households overall which have a disproportionately greater housing need compared to the jurisdiction as a whole. A disproportionately greater need exists when the percentage of persons in a category of need, who are members of a particular racial or ethnic group is at least 10 percentage points higher than the percentage of persons in a category as a whole.

0%-30% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	2,330	860	125
White	2,140	750	85
Black / African American	45	75	0
Asian	60	10	40
American Indian, Alaska Native	10	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	24	30	0

Table 12 – Severe Housing Problems 0 - 30% AMI

Data Source: 2005-2009 CHAS

*The four severe housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than 1.5 persons per room, 4. Cost Burden over 50%

30%-50% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	925	1,410	0
White	835	1,230	0
Black / African American	50	25	0
Asian	25	15	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	15	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	10	60	0

Table 13 – Severe Housing Problems 30 - 50% AMI

Data Source: 2005-2009 CHAS

*The four severe housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than 1.5 persons per room, 4. Cost Burden over 50%

50%-80% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	525	2,665	0
White	510	2,510	0
Black / African American	0	25	0
Asian	0	20	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	10	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	0	0	0

Table 14 – Severe Housing Problems 50 - 80% AMI

Data Source: 2005-2009 CHAS

*The four severe housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than 1.5 persons per room, 4. Cost Burden over 50%

80%-100% of Area Median Income

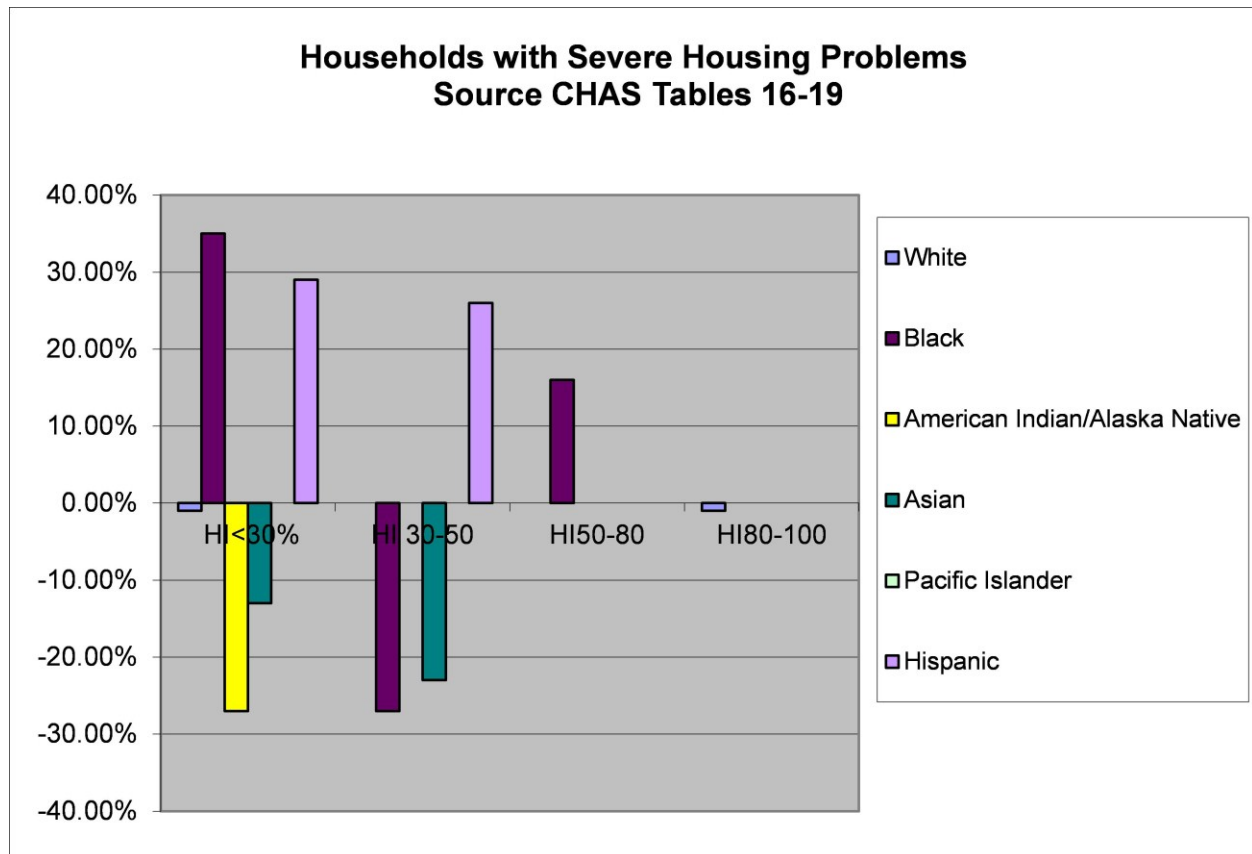
Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	90	1,375	0
White	90	1,265	0
Black / African American	0	30	0
Asian	0	15	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	4	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	0	20	0

Table 15 – Severe Housing Problems 80 - 100% AMI

Data Source: 2005-2009 CHAS

*The four severe housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than 1.5 persons per room, 4. Cost Burden over 50%



Graph 2 - Households With Severe Housing Problems

Discussion

Graph 2 displays the difference between the percentage of households overall which have a severe housing need and the percentage of households in each minority group which have a severe housing need. Among households in Burlington, on a percentage basis, disproportionately greater need appears among the following groups:

- Extremely low-income households of Asian and American Indian/Alaska Native descent. There are 60 Asian and 10 American Indian/Alaska Native households in this category.
- Low-income households of Black/African American and Asian descent. There are a total of 50 Black/African American and 25 Asian households in this category.

NA-25 Disproportionately Greater Need: Housing Cost Burdens

Assess the need of any racial or ethnic group that has disproportionately greater need in comparison to the needs of that category of need as a whole.

Introduction

For the City of Burlington, housing cost burden is the most significant issue. Cost burden is defined as households paying more than 30% of their income for housing. Cost burden becomes extreme when households pay more than 50% of their income for housing. A disproportionately greater need exists when the percentage of persons in a category of need who are members of a particular racial or ethnic group is at least 10 percentage points higher than the percentage of persons in the jurisdiction as a whole.

Housing Cost Burden

Housing Cost Burden	<=30%	30-50%	>50%	No / negative income (not computed)
Jurisdiction as a whole	7,645	3,665	3,715	125
White	7,200	3,345	3,450	85
Black / African American	115	40	95	0
Asian	40	55	85	40
American Indian, Alaska Native	30	0	10	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0
Hispanic	110	105	34	0

Table 16 – Greater Need: Housing Cost Burdens AMI

Data Source: 2005-2009 CHAS

Homeownership by Race

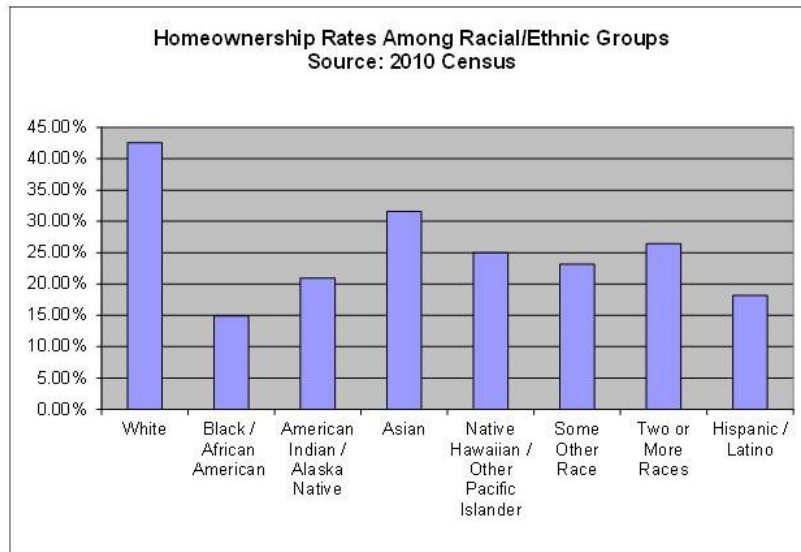
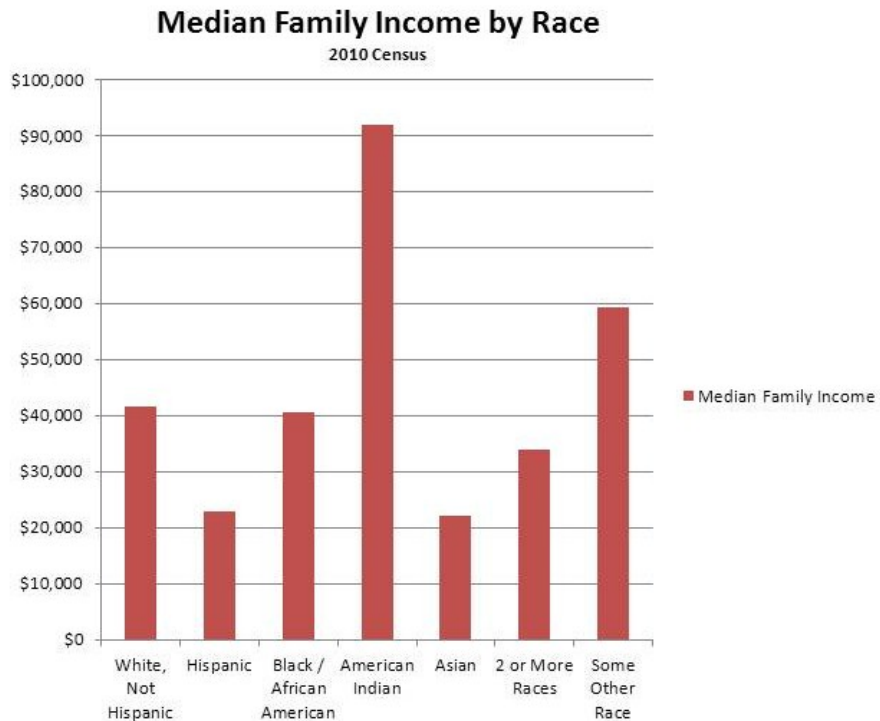


Table: Median Family Income by Race

Median Family Income			
Source: Census	1980 - Burlington	2000 - Burlington	2010 Burlington
White	\$18,620	\$47,330	\$41,648
Hispanic	\$17,604	\$29,083	\$22,969
% Difference Hispanic and White	94.54%	61.45%	55.15%
Black	\$15,000	\$25,714	\$40,557
% Difference Black and White	80.56%	54.33%	97.38%

Graph: Median Family Income by Race



Discussion

Assessing disproportionately greater needs in Burlington on a percentage basis is complicated by the relatively low number of minority households in the City. Using HUD's definition of cost burden (spending over 30% of income on housing) as the definition of need, the charts show, by race/ethnicity and income, the households overall which have a disproportionately greater need with housing cost burdens compared to the jurisdiction as a whole.

Among households, on a percentage basis disproportionate need appears among the following groups:

- Extremely low-income American Indian/Alaska Natives of which there are 30 in this category.
- Hispanic low-income households who earn between 30 - 50% of the median income. There are 105 households in this category.
- Asian moderate-income households who earn over 50% of the area median income. There are 85 households in this category.

NA-30 Disproportionately Greater Need: Discussion

Income categories in which a racial or ethnic group has disproportionately greater need

Income disparities by race have shifted since 1980 according to the table Median Family Income by Race. In 1980, the median family income for black City residents was 81% of the median family income for white residents. By 2000, the median family income for black residents had dropped to 54% of the median family income for white residents. However, in 2010, the median family income for black residents has increased to over 97% of the income for white residents. The trend is reversed for the disparity with Hispanic households. In 1980, the median family income for Hispanic households was 95% of the median family income for white residents. The disparity increased to only 61% of the median income for white residents in 2000 and 55% of median income in 2010.

The graph entitled, Median Family Income by Race, demonstrates a significant disparity between the incomes of the Hispanic and Asian household versus the White, Not Hispanic households.

Needs not previously identified

Homeownership for minorities is affected by lower income levels. A disproportionate need exists for all racial/ethnic groups in terms of homeownership as indicated by the graph Homeownership Rates Among Racial/Ethnic Groups. According to the 2010 Census, the homeownership rate for white households is almost 43%. The greatest disparity in homeownership rates exist among Black/African American households at almost 15%. Next is the rate for Hispanic households at 18%. American Indian/Alaska Native households follow with a homeownership rate of 21%. Some other race household totals include a rate for homeownership at 23%. The rate of homeownership for Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander households is 25%. Households identifying as two or more races maintain a homeownership rate of 26%. Finally, Asian households hold a 31.5% homeownership rate in the City.

Are any of those racial or ethnic groups located in specific areas or neighborhoods in your community?

Although the City of Burlington has grown in its diverse population, there is still no high concentration of minority populations in any one neighborhood. In two census tracts, 3 and 11, there is a 15% minority based population. In all other census tracts, the minority population ranges from 4% to 10%. Census tract 3 is home to the Old North End and tract 11 is home to the South End and 148-unit South Meadow apartments which was recently purchased, with assistance from the City of Burlington, by the Champlain Housing Trust to maintain its affordability.

NA-35 Public Housing

Introduction

The Burlington Housing Authority (BHA) is Vermont's oldest and largest municipally-based housing authority. Created in 1961, BHA has been providing affordable housing for over fifty years to individuals and families in the City of Burlington and surrounding communities.

BHA's mission is to promote, provide and preserve affordable housing in ways that encourage resident self-sufficiency and support healthy neighborhoods.

BHA is governed by a five-member Board of Commissioners, appointed by Burlington's Mayor. Their policies and priorities are established through a Five-Year/Annual Plan. Most funding is received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which has rated BHA as a High Performer.

BHA manages over 600 affordable apartments and provides rental assistance to over 1,700 families living in the City of Burlington and a number of surrounding communities.

Resident services programs help families assisted in maintaining their housing, achieving economic self-sufficiency and working toward homeownership.

Totals in Use

	Program Type								
	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Total	Project - based	Tenant - based	Special Purpose Voucher		
							Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
# of units vouchers in use	0	0	343	1,707	133	1,158	0	260	105
*includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five_year, and Nursing Home Transition									

Table 17 - Public Housing by Program Type

Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

Characteristics of Residents

	Program Type								
	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Total	Project - based	Tenant - based	Special Purpose Voucher		
							Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
Average Annual Income	0	0	15,508	15,048	13,635	14,752	0	15,585	14,725
Average length of stay	0	0	7	5	3	6	0	6	6
Average Household size	0	0	2	2	1	2	0	3	2
# Homeless at admission	0	0	0	4	0	3	0	1	0
# of Elderly Program Participants (>62)	0	0	95	271	21	231	0	3	12
# of Disabled Families	0	0	146	737	51	526	0	45	93
# of Families requesting accessibility features	0	0	343	1,707	133	1,158	0	260	105
# of HIV/AIDS program participants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
# of DV victims	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
*includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five_year, and Nursing Home Transition									

Table 18 – Characteristics of Public Housing Residents by Program Type

Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

Race of Residents

Race	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Program Type					
				Total	Project - based	Tenant - based	Special Purpose Voucher		
							Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
White	0	0	279	1,476	110	993	0	227	97
Black/African American	0	0	41	140	8	107	0	21	4
Asian	0	0	15	62	11	42	0	4	4
American Indian/Alaska Native	0	0	8	28	4	15	0	8	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
*includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five_year, and Nursing Home Transition									

Table 19 – Race of Public Housing Residents by Program Type

Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

Ethnicity of Residents

Race	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Program Type					
				Total	Project - based	Tenant - based	Special Purpose Voucher		
							Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
Hispanic	0	0	4	30	0	21	0	6	2
Not Hispanic	0	0	339	1,677	133	1,137	0	254	103
*includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five_year, and Nursing Home Transition									

Table 20 – Ethnicity of Public Housing Residents by Program Type

Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

Consolidated Plan

BURLINGTON

NA-25

BHA Wait List

Waiting Lists Source: Burlington Housing Authority	Public Housing			Tenant-Based Section 8		
	# of families	% of total families	Annual Turnover	# of families	% of total families	Annual Turnover
Waiting list total	463		45	1929		176
Extremely low income (≤30% AMI)	365	79%		1513	78%	
Very low income (>30% but ≤50% AMI)	79	17%		375	19%	
Low income (>50% but <80% AMI)	19	4%		41	2%	
Families with children	201	43%		726	38%	
Elderly families	74	16%		327	17%	
Families with Disabilities	188	41%		710	37%	
Black	65	14%		253	13%	
Asian	86	18%		187	10%	
Indian/Alaskan	11	2%		53	3%	

Survey Respondents Speak Out on Section 8

With a long wait list for Section 8 vouchers, the need for this type of assistance was addressed by several respondents in our community survey:

- *“More Section 8 Vouchers and homeless prevention for Section 8 recipients' are needed.”*
- *“Make it easier for single people without children or without disabilities to get Section 8 housing.”*
- *“Interim housing for people waiting for Section 8.”*
- *“A safety net for those thrown off the Section 8 list (as the wait is now around 7 years) and most shelters are full.”*

Section 504 Needs Assessment

Needs of public housing tenants and applicants on the waiting list for accessible units

The Burlington Housing Authority (BHA) conducted its first Section 504 Needs Assessment in July of 1990 and updated the Needs Assessment in 2000. In 2004, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development completed a review of their Low Income Public Housing and Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher programs administered by BHA. The program, viewed in its entirety, is in compliance with Section 504 in the area of accessibility, employment and other HUD regulatory provisions.

Of their 343 units, 18 (5.2%) are accessible. In Riverside Apartments and Champlain Apartments, 10% of the units are accessible. In Decker Towers and Hillside Terrace, the number of accessible units is 4% and 8% respectively. There are no accessible units in the Franklin Square 60 multi-story townhouse units. To achieve full UFAS compliance, the Housing Authority lowered mirrors and coat racks, reconfigured some parking spaces and signage, lowered some cabinets, reassigned mail boxes and modified some kitchen counters and sinks.

For the Housing Choice Voucher Program, BHA maintains a list of landlords and property managers that often have apartments available to be rented under the Section 8 program. The list indicates which of the properties have accessible apartments. In addition, the BHA staff will assist in searches for accessible apartments or apartments that meet special needs.

There are currently 11 households on the waiting list in need of accessible units. As with the analysis of all renter households, the greatest need as reflected in the waiting lists appears among extremely low-income households. The waiting lists reflect higher needs among families with children and families with disabilities than among elderly families.

Most immediate needs of residents of Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher holders

There are a total of 1,929 families on the wait list for the Burlington Housing Authority. This situation will be exacerbated as vouchers are lost to sequestration cuts.

The most immediate need of residents of Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher holders is to find and retain affordable housing units. With a vacancy rate of less than 1% in Burlington, it is difficult to find affordable units in which to use a voucher for housing. Once a unit is secured, it is imperative for the voucher holder to retain the housing. Issues that can impact their housing stability include hoarding and squalor, high heating costs, mental health and substance abuse issues and poor rental habits (like not paying rent in a timely manner). Critical components to housing retention include a tenant's ability to interface successfully and appropriately with property managers and neighbors, case management, identified support services and education for first time or previously unsuccessful renters.

Public housing tenants need to learn how to live independently, and the Family Self-Sufficiency Program helps to increase their employment skills, savings and other life skills. Residents might need access to affordable child care and transportation to and from work. These immediate needs impact their day to day success and ability to maintain housing and employment.

How do these needs compare to the housing needs of the population at large

In many ways, the housing needs of the general population are the same as those in public housing. Depending on the location in the Burlington area, the rental vacancy rate can range between 1% and 3%. In addition, accessible public transportation is dependent on housing location. However, affordable housing is the same nut to crack and our extremely low income residents have less disposable income.

NA-40 Homeless Needs Assessment

Introduction

The Chittenden County Homeless Alliance is a coalition of individuals, organizations, and government who support the vision of a safe, decent, affordable, stable home for every person and family in Chittenden County. Its mission is to end homelessness in Chittenden County by being a forum for gathering information, building consensus, coordinating efforts, and advocating the end to homelessness through prevention, early intervention, and remediation. Beginning in early 2012, the City was chosen to serve as the Lead Agency for the Chittenden County Continuum of Care. The City's Assistant Director for Housing co-chairs the monthly meetings of the Chittenden County Continuum of Care. Beginning in 2013, the City, as the Collaborative Applicant, coordinated the submittal of the comprehensive CoC application for the Continuum, working in conjunction with the local partners to stimulate community-wide planning and coordination of programs for individuals and families who are homeless.

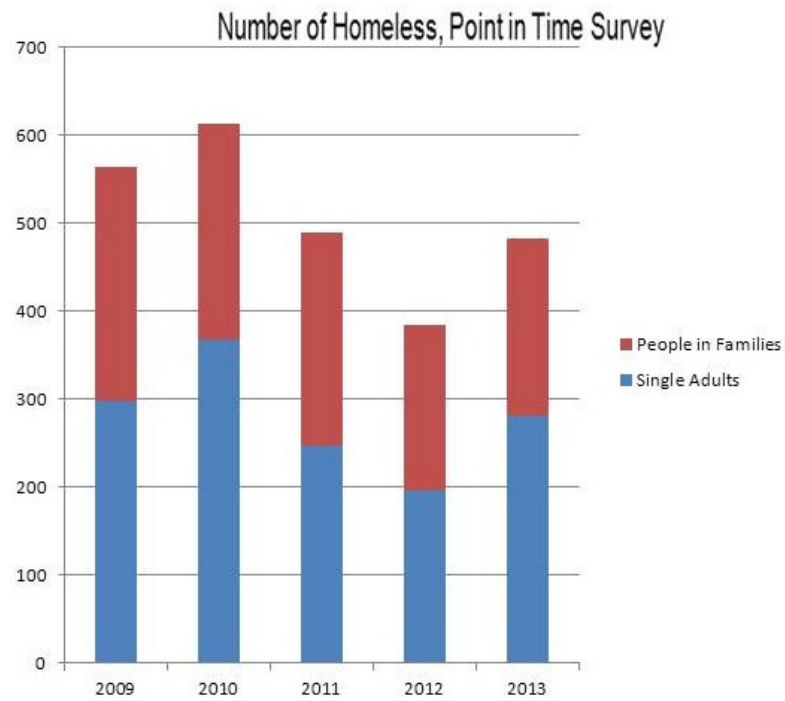
Homeless Needs Assessment

Population	Estimate the # of persons experiencing homelessness on a given night		Estimate the # experiencing homelessness each year	Estimate the # becoming homeless each year	Estimate the # exiting homelessness each year	Estimate the # of days persons experience homelessness
	Sheltered	Unsheltered				
Persons in Households with Adult(s) and Child(ren)	197	4	717	516	428	210
Persons in Households with Only Children	1	0	1	1	0	0
Persons in Households with Only Adults	206	75	338	190	218	200
Chronically Homeless Individuals	48	54	38	27	16	206
Chronically Homeless Families	7	1	1	1	0	0
Veterans	23	7	15	10	7	187
Unaccompanied Child	1	0	0	0	0	0
Persons with HIV	0	0	17	10	9	22

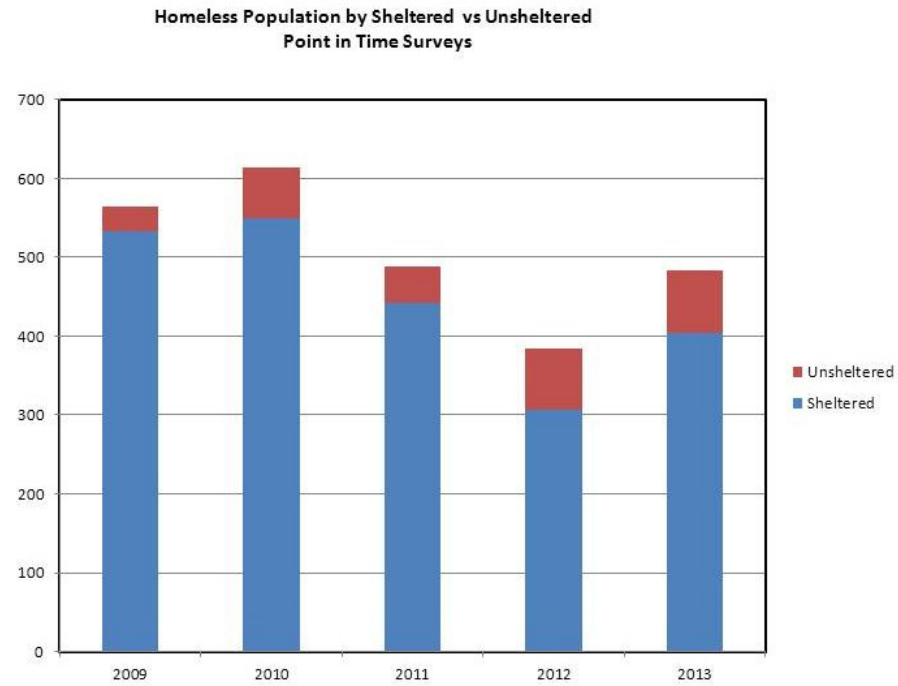
Table 21 - Homeless Needs Assessment

Data Source Comments:

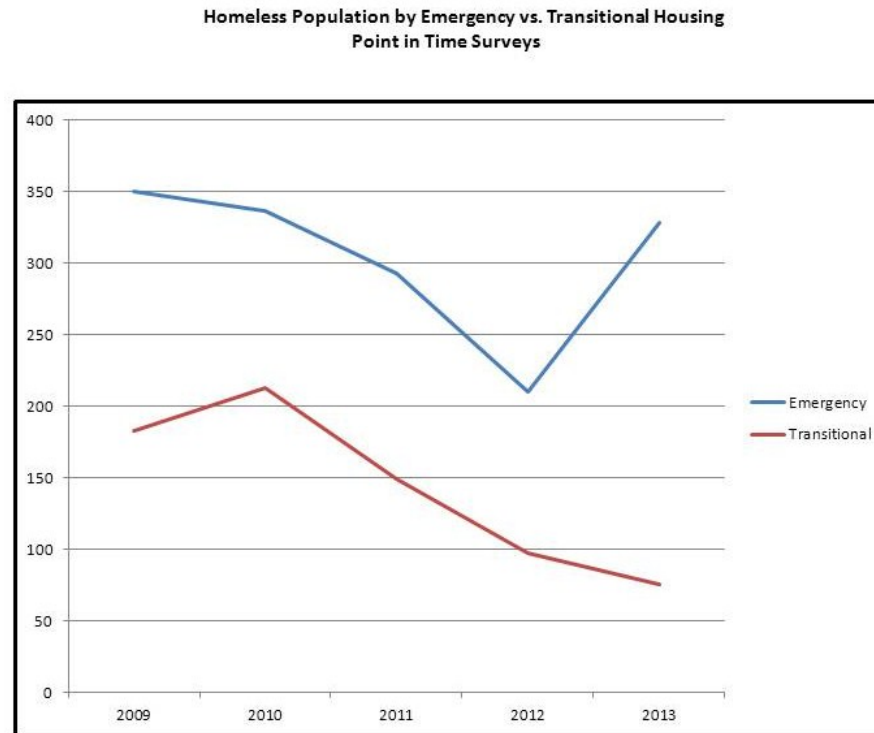
Number of Homeless Point-In-Time Survey



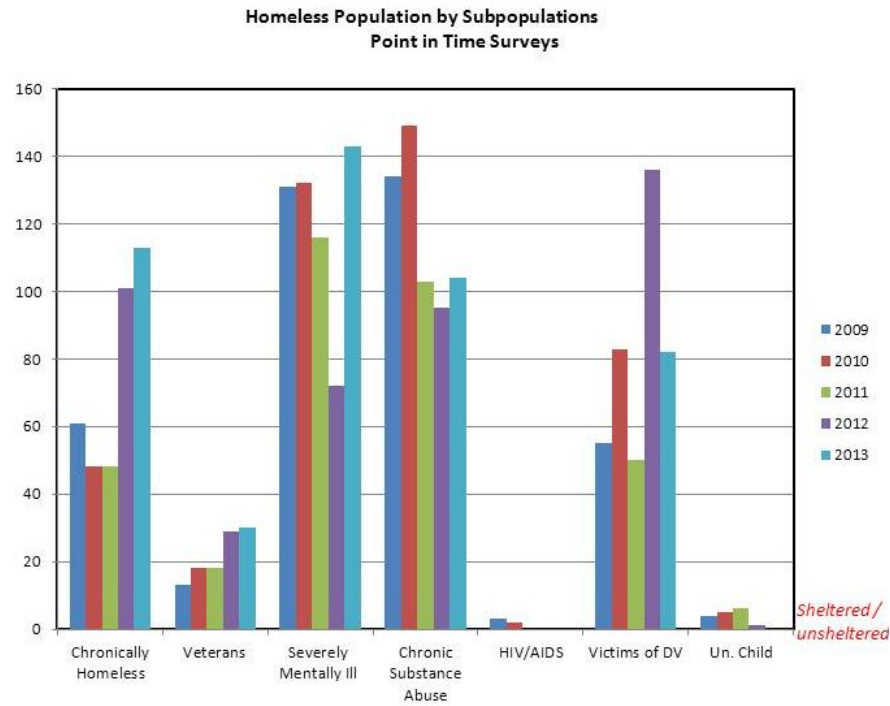
Homeless Population by Sheltered vs Unsheltered



Homeless Population by Emergency vs. Transitional Housing

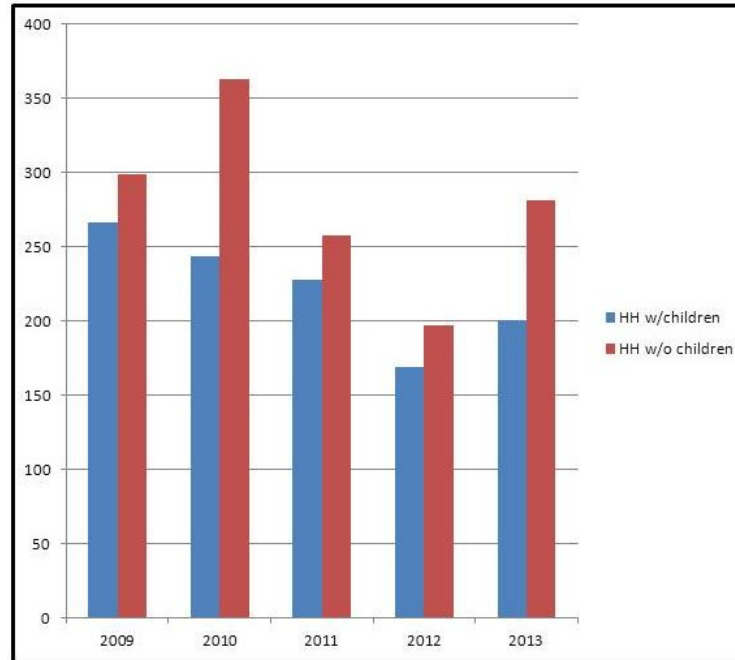


Homeless Population by Subpopulations



Homeless Population With or Without Children

Homeless Population HH With or Without Children
Point in Time Surveys



Estimate the number and type of families in need of housing assistance for families with children and families of veterans.

The incidences of unsheltered homeless households with children are very rare. In 2011, the unsheltered number of families was one, and in 2012 that number increased to five. For the 2013 Point in Time survey, there was one family counted as unsheltered.

The State has a well-funded homeless prevention effort that provides emergency assistance for families and Vermont 211 assists with outreach and assessment. Outreach teams, the local food shelf, day time drop in shelter and the Salvation Army serve to identify and reach unsheltered homeless households with dependent children and assist with rapid re-housing to reduce the number of unsheltered homeless households with children. These agencies provide meals every day in the community and are the only service providers that the unsheltered population routinely seeks out. The Housing Resource Center focuses on rapid re-housing and prevention assistance for both single adults and for families with dependent children. Families are assisted with security deposits and financial counseling; facilitating their move from homelessness into permanent housing. Prevention assistance allows both children and families to remain housed and prevents either eviction or foreclosure. There are three local emergency shelters who house families together including one for victims of domestic violence.

Each CoC program that serves children has children's advocates or specially trained staff to ensure that this regulation as well as children's need for safety, nurturing, education, and stability are met.

The number of families in need of housing assistance in the shelters in 2011 was 54 and that number decreased in 2012 to 34, but increased again in 2013 to 56.

Families of veterans have decreased in the past two years. In 2011, 14 families were housed and 4 families were unsheltered. In 2012, 11 families of veterans were housed and 3 families were unsheltered. In 2013, there were 23 veterans in our shelters and transitional housing. Canal Street is a facility dedicated to veterans in the jurisdiction and offers both transitional and permanent housing for veterans. All other services, like case management and supportive services for employment, mental health, substance abuse and more are available for veteran families.

Jurisdiction's Rural Homeless Population

Chittenden County is part of the Burlington-South Burlington Metropolitan Statistical Area and therefore not considered rural.

Nature and Extent of Homelessness by Racial and Ethnic Group

According to the 2010 Census, the racial composition of the City of Burlington includes 88.9% White persons, 3.9% Black/African American persons, 3.6% Asian persons, 2.6% persons reporting two or more races, and .3% American Indian and Alaska Native persons. Ethnicity is comprised of 87.3% White persons not Hispanic and 2.7% Hispanic/Latino origin.

The nature and extent of homelessness by racial and ethnic group presents a different picture thereby accentuating the disparity with minority groups being overrepresented among the homeless. The information on race and ethnicity of the homeless is available from the Annual Homeless Assessment Report.

The percentage of White persons in families utilizing emergency shelters decreased from 73% to 65% between 2010 and 2012. The percentage of Hispanic/Latino persons in families increased from 3% to 5% during the same timeframe. Black/African American persons in families demonstrate significant disparity. In 2010, 13% of Black/African American persons in families utilized shelters; this number increased to 20% in 2011 and then 26% in 2012. The percentage of Asian persons in families utilizing emergency shelters increased from 0% to 1% in the past three years. American Indian/Alaska Native decreased from 2% to 1% over the three-year period. Finally, those reporting as several races decreased from 8% to 0% which may be attributed to better self-reporting of race. In 2012, the percentages of individuals without children utilizing shelters follows the similar race and ethnic trends as those with children: 79% White individuals, 15% Black/African American persons, 2% of Asian, Hispanic/Latino, American Indian and Alaska Native with Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander and several races rounding out at 0%.

Nature and Extent of Unsheltered and Sheltered Homelessness, including Rural Homelessness

By using the data compiled in the Continuum of Care's Point-In-time Count entered into the Homeless Data Exchange for the past five years, it is possible to understand the nature and extent of unsheltered and sheltered homelessness in Chittenden County.

The total homeless population is represented by the graph **Homeless Point-In-Time**. The homeless population in Chittenden County experienced an overall 15% decrease since 2009. The highest number of homeless was counted in 2010 and the lowest number in 2012. The downward trend could be attributed to the influx of Federal and State resources for homeless prevention and rapid re-housing during that same timeframe.

Examining the graph **Homeless Population by Sheltered versus Unsheltered**, we find the sheltered population has decreased by 24% whereas the unsheltered population has increased by 147%. This increase in unsheltered population could be attributed to the increase in outreach during the Point-In-Time Count and also a downturn in the economy. The number of unsheltered homeless remained stable the last two years. The majority of the unsheltered population consists of individuals without children.

In the graph, **Homeless Population by Emergency versus Transitional Housing**, we can note the downward trend of those accessing emergency shelter with the lowest point in 2012 and then the sharp increase of 56% in 2013 due to the Emergency Assistance Motel Voucher Program. Cold weather exemptions and relaxed standards led to increased usage. It is not clear as to whether this represents an actual increase in literal homelessness in Burlington. The downward trend for transitional housing began in 2010 and represented the change in which beds could be counted as transitional housing beds. The decrease in transitional housing is 58% since 2009.

The **Homeless by Subpopulation** graph demonstrates the consistently higher numbers of severely mentally ill (9.16% increase) since 2009. However, the number of those identifying as chronic substance abusers has remained consistently lower for the past three years (an overall decrease of 22% since 2009) whereas those with severe mental illness increased significantly in 2013. The chronically homeless subpopulation has steadily increased the past five years at an alarmingly high rate of 85%. Victims of domestic violence also have increased with a peak in 2012 and an overall increase of 49%. The Point-In-Time Subpopulations accentuate the specific need for supportive housing and services for these vulnerable populations. The Veteran homeless population has steadily increased (131%) in the past five years but this could also be attributed to the increase outreach and housing opportunities for Veterans. Unsheltered veterans numbered four in 2011 and then rose to seven in 2012 and 2013.

The homeless count by household type is illustrated by the graph **Homeless Population With or Without Children**. Each year, there are more households without children than those with children. The gap between these populations is the largest in 2010 and then again in 2013. This trend should be watched for a decrease in the number of homeless households with children. The number of households with children who are counted as unsheltered is very low, but the highest percentage (15.5%) appeared in 2012. In 2013, this number was significantly reduced. Overall, there is a 24% decrease in the number of households with children counted as homeless during the Point-In-Time Survey and a 6% decrease in the number of adult only households.

The data for the number of persons becoming homeless and exiting homeless are listed in the chart. These numbers were derived from HMIS and APR's.

Discussion

The lack of affordable housing options, combined with a very low vacancy rate in the City, continues to demonstrate that the provision of safe and decent affordable housing for our low-income residents is the most pressing need. Since the vacancy rate is so low, it is imperative to utilize rental assistance, landlord advocacy and support and other retention services to keep this vulnerable population housed. Equally critical is a need to move long-term shelter residents into transitional or permanent supportive housing in order to utilize the emergency shelters appropriately for short-term, emergency needs. High need subpopulations are identified as victims of domestic violence, chronically homeless, severely mentally ill and veterans.

In order to use the current federal, state and local resources more efficiently, the City will work together with the Continuum of Care and HUD technical assistance providers to create a coordinated intake as well as a coordinated assessment system. This will also help to meet the needs of this population.

NA-45 Non-Homeless Special Needs Assessment

Introduction

The Special Needs populations of the City include seniors over 65, those living with both physical and developmental disabilities, and those with substance abuse and mental health needs. Over the past five years, some Special Needs populations have increased, while others have decreased. This population generally needs additional supports, or wraparound services to accompany their housing needs.

Characteristics of Special Needs Populations

As of the 2010 Census, there were 3,986 Burlington seniors, age 65 and older, living in the City. Not all of those residents have supportive service or supportive housing needs. However, 36.6% of Burlington seniors (a total of 1,460) reported having some kind of disability. That includes mental illness as well as physical disabilities. Thirty-six percent were living alone, 20.6% with an independent living difficulty, and 16% had no vehicle.

The Vermont State System of Care uses a prevalence rate of 2.1% of the City's general population who have intellectual disabilities and Pervasive Development Disorders. Applying the overall percent to Burlington's population, there are an estimated 890 residents with developmental disabilities.

As defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, people with developmental disabilities have problems with major life activities such as language, mobility, learning, self-help, and independent living. Developmental disabilities begin anytime during development up to 22 years of age and usually last throughout a person's lifetime. Currently, 17% of this population, or 152, are being served with Home and Community Based Waiver supports in Burlington. The vast majority of people with developmental disabilities are supported by families or other non-Developmental Services Waiver supports.

According to an analysis by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), about 4.7% of Vermont's population over age 18 has a severe mental illness, defined as a mental illness that caused substantial functional impairment with one or more major life activities. Using this estimate, around 1760 Burlington residents suffer from severe mental illness. It is estimated that roughly half of those who suffer from severe mental illness are also affected by substance abuse.

According to the 2006 National Survey on Drug Use and Health prepared by the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), an estimated 9.6% of the population, ages 12 and older, need treatment for a substance abuse problem. Applying that percent to Burlington's population, there are 3,319 residents, age 12 and older, in need of substance abuse treatment.

Housing and Supportive Service Needs and Determination

According to the 2010 Census, 821 individuals, ages 65+ in the City, identified an independent living difficulty. In addition, 1,179 senior households, or 29.5% of the population over 65 are paying over 30% of their income for housing and are cost burdened. According to Cathedral Square Corporation, a key housing provider serving the elderly and individuals or families with special needs, their waiting list hovers between 700 and 1,000 people which demonstrates a high need for special needs/senior housing. By 2017, one in three Vermonters will be 55 years of age or older. Services needed for older adults range from chronic care self-management, to prevention, to nursing home level of care in their homes.

Eligibility requirements often force seniors to “spend down” assets in order to access housing and care. Other challenges for the elderly in maintaining an independent living environment include reliance on fixed incomes, juggling housing costs with medical care, special transportation needs, in-home care and assistance with daily tasks and the physical aspects of aging in place. A more detailed list of challenges faced by these populations can be found below.

Non-elderly residents with mobility and self-care limitations share many of the same challenges as their elderly counterparts. Also, as residents with mental illness and developmental disabilities age, they also share the challenges of changing medical and physical conditions.

Residents with developmental delays are dependent upon a fixed social security payment as their primary source of income and rely on subsidized housing options. Those who choose to live in a family living situation or in one of a few remaining supportive group homes can access funding support. Those who choose an independent living situation are accommodated by Section 8 and other subsidized housing programs; they do not have preferential status on the waiting lists for those programs but do have other housing options while they wait.

Service-enriched housing needs for the population with severe mental illness range from affordable, independent apartments with support services provided by visiting mental health workers to 24-hour supervised “group home” settings. Right now, there is a need for additional supportive housing at all levels for those living with severe mental illness. There is a need for at least 12 additional community care home beds, with 24 hour, 7 day a week double staffing and for at least 20 more permanent supportive housing units.

Substance abuse treatment and recovery for the 3,300 + residents require affordable, appropriate, alcohol-free and drug-free housing with a range of management and supportive services, from a high level of on-site management (for treatment and early recovery) to self-management in housing such as Oxford Houses to self-management in an at-home setting. Housing that does not require a lease will often not qualify for assistance, creating additional burdens for this population.

Public Size and Characteristics of Population with HIV / AIDS

The State of Vermont estimates that there are 716 cases of AIDS in Vermont and 233 cases in Chittenden County. Although it is not known if all of these people are still living in the state, the number is higher than those who are under care. Because of confidentiality concerns arising from the small population numbers, an estimate of the number of Burlington residents living with HIV/AIDS is not available.

Those living with HIV/AIDS need stable and medically appropriate housing in order to comply with complex medical and medication regimens and avoid costly inpatient hospitalizations.

Discussion

These Special Needs populations, and specifically those over 65+, face many challenges listed below.

- Living in an independent housing setting with the challenges of cognitive impairments including Alzheimer's - according to a nonprofit housing provider, 49% of the residents at one independent housing setting failed one or two components of a cognitive screen;
- Fixed incomes, which limit their ability to pay rising rent, maintenance, utilities and property tax costs;
- Paying for and managing medical care and prescription medications (including assistance with administering medications);
- Special transportation needs due to medical and physical conditions;
- Lack of 24-hour protective oversight to assist with unscheduled needs;
- Needing help with meal preparation, housekeeping, shopping and other activities of daily living;
- Housing that accommodates, or is made to accommodate, changing physical needs;
- Being 'overhoused' as they age in place in the homes in which they raised their families, but which are now large and expensive to maintain;
- Social isolation, which leads to depression - according to a local provider, around 70% of those receiving home health visits are suffering from clinical depression;
- Unavailable housing options, with local waiting lists for supportive housing that can be as long as two and a half years; and
- Housing decisions often precipitated by sudden changes in circumstances that further limit choices and options.

NA-50 Non-Housing Community Development Needs

Public Facilities

For the City, restoration and rehabilitation projects for municipally-owned public facilities are given priority over new construction whenever possible. A description of facilities owned by the City is available in the 2006 Municipal Development Plan. Nonprofits balance renovation with new construction based on factors such as cost, financing, organizational needs and capacity. These facilities, both new and renovated, support and improve a suitable living environment for many of our low and moderate income citizens.

Homeless facilities present current needs. A local daytime shelter for the homeless was destroyed by a flood in 2011; although the service is temporarily relocated, the facility will need to be replaced. Shelters dedicated to victims fleeing domestic violence need renovation. There is an on-going discussion about a need for a low-barrier homeless shelter for those facing substance abuse and/or co-occurring disorders.

Two senior centers supported largely in part by the City's general fund, need ongoing repair and renovations.

Two local childcare/youth centers have either outgrown their facilities or are faced with aging facilities that are no longer meeting their needs.

The rehabilitation of the Moran Plant site, on the waterfront of Lake Champlain, presents economic development opportunities with potential job creation, access to goods and services and recreation depending on the final project.

The redevelopment of the Memorial Auditorium Complex presents significant economic development opportunities with potential job creation along with providing access to goods and services.

The most needed facility investment for Chittenden County Transit Authority's system is the replacement of the Cherry Street Station by a new Downtown Transit Center in Burlington. The current passenger environment at Cherry Street Station, without a climate-controlled waiting area or other passenger amenities, is insufficient to attract new riders and unpleasant for current riders. A new facility will have a climate controlled waiting area and other amenities such as bike racks, restrooms, real-time passenger information and Wi-Fi. It will create the crucial link of mobility for employment and access to good and services.

All City facilities should be assessed to determine the accessibility needs and a capital plan developed based on scoring of severity and number of people affected to ensure all buildings and capital investments meet ADA compliance.

Park improvement projects and recreational facilities are part of the Pennies for Parks renovations. Community gardens are an important part of the community fabric, with more community garden plots per capita in the City than in any other community across the country. The Municipal Plan

identifies securing long-term access to garden space and making new gardens available across the City. Also, many of the established gardens are aging and in need of renovation.

The City uses CDBG to support public and nonprofit facilities where there is identified community support for the project and where there are not other sufficient, more appropriate resources. It is not a large enough pool of money to fund major projects but can play a vital role in filling a gap, leveraging other funds or meeting a renovation need.

Need Determination

Several sources were considered to determine these public facilities' needs. A citizen survey was distributed to all CDBG subgrantees, CoC member agencies and local citizens and published online. Approximately 100 citizens responded with their top ten priorities. Other municipal plans and documents were examined including planBTV, 2006 Municipal Development Plan, Waterfront Revitalization Plan, Vermont Council on Homelessness Plan to End Homelessness, Committee on Accessibility and the 2000 Legacy Action Plan and update.

The City will use CDBG to support public facilities and nonprofit facilities where there is a need and obvious community support for the project and also where there are not other sufficient resources. In overall priorities, a suitable living environment is the City's third priority, CDBG funding for these types of projects can be used as leverage for other resources, for small community generated projects as funds are available, or to meet a renovation need.

Public Improvements

Several public improvement projects have been identified to revitalize critical City infrastructure. CDBG funds will be leveraged with transportation dollars and other federal, state and local resources to accomplish these improvements. The redevelopment of brownfields is a priority for the City with most vacant commercial properties left being suspected brownfields, with excavations performed in the Old North End, downtown, waterfront or Pine Street typically revealing contamination issues. There are also dozens of undiscovered underground storage tanks in the City, often beneath sidewalks and Rights-of-Way.

Burlington's Transportation Plan is a multi-modal transportation improvement plan that provides a comprehensive and coordinated list of roadway, transit, bicycle and pedestrian friendly streetscape and land use recommendations for implementation that satisfy the overall vision of the City developed in the Burlington Municipal Development Plan and the Burlington Legacy Project.

The Transportation Plan offers new Street Design Guidelines and ensures that Complete Streets practices and principles are considered on all applicable projects as a goal that is now mandated by Vermont's Act 34 of 2011. There are 120 miles of public streets in Burlington and 200 miles of sidewalks. The Department of Public Works publishes a five-year and an annual street paving plan as well as an annual sidewalk repair plan. There is an identified need to integrate curb cuts into sidewalks in more locations, including near accessible parking. The Complete Street design will also compliment the City's mission to improve accessibility for persons with disabilities.

Transportation improvement projects target more transit (bus) improvements, creation of easier pedestrian and bicycle access and complete streets.

The Railyard Enterprise Project (REP) consists of revitalizing an underutilized area of the City by developing a new grid system of complete streets, green infrastructure and stormwater improvements, thereby increasing opportunities for affordable housing and additional economic opportunities. With the aid of an EPA Area-Wide Planning grant, the City has the vision to develop this area into an Eco-District.

Waterfront Access North project will provide the utility and transportation infrastructure to support the redevelopment and public access to the Moran Plant and the Urban Reserve.

The Waterfront Bike Path improvements are needed along the central section of the bike path in the Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area and will improve livability and access for all residents including our low-income residents.

Utility and transportation infrastructure improvements on the Cherry Street corridor include complete streets, green infrastructure and stormwater improvements. These improvements will also increase opportunities for affordable housing and additional economic opportunities and/or job creation and increase access to good and services.

Depot Street & Sherman Street Stairway will provide critical transportation infrastructure to provide residents of the NRSA and Old North End access to Burlington's waterfront and bike path.

Need Determination

Several sources were considered to determine these public facilities' needs. A citizen survey was distributed to all CDBG grantees, local citizens and published online. Approximately 100 citizens responded with their top ten priorities. Other municipal plans and documents were examined including planBTV, 2006 Municipal Development Plan, Waterfront Revitalization Plan, Committee on Accessibility, the Transportation Plan and the 2000 Legacy Action Plan and update.

CDBG is not a large enough pool to fund major projects, but it can play a vital role in some of the larger improvement projects such as Railyard Enterprise Project and Waterfront Access North where a small investment of CDBG funds can leverage large amounts of state and federal funding, where the project significantly contributes to community revitalization, and where CDBG can effectively be used for program delivery costs.

Public Services

The City has traditionally used the entire 15% allocation for Public Services to support the provision of public services by local nonprofits. CDBG funding has been used for child care, youth, health, public safety and housing and homeless services. Programs being funded meet community needs and priorities, and CDBG has been used previously to fill gaps in funding or to leverage other funds. Over the course of several years, the CDBG allocation has decreased significantly, yet the needs in the community continue to increase. Grantee allocations decreased to such insignificant levels, the funding was no longer effective, sustainable or making a difference.

The City and its Citizen Advisory Board have selected key priorities for the next five years for funding public services. These priorities include: funding programs that coordinate with other programs or organizations; fund efficiency and innovative initiatives; and fund programs with high or multiple impact towards the anti-poverty strategy.

The need for child care services, in relation to decreasing barriers to employment is discussed in a following section.

Below there are two charts that display the crime trends in the State of Vermont since 2005. The City's goal is that all Burlington residents enjoy livable, attractive neighborhoods, are assured of safety and quality of life in their neighborhoods and in their homes, and have the necessary community supports to thrive. The indicator tracked in this area includes crime reports for specific crimes as well as the crime index. Overall, there has been a decline in the number of crime incidents in several important areas since 2005. The 2010 Vermont Crime Report, released by the Vermont Criminal Information Center at the Department of Public Safety except for forcible rape, Vermont saw a decrease of crimes against property by 10.4%, and against persons by 8.5%. The total Crime Index in 2010 was 14,649, down from 15,737 in 2009.

With the City's ever increasing diverse population, speaking a language other than English create cultural, educational and employment barriers that lead to inequities and disparities in our City. A refugee resettlement program has made Burlington home to thousands of refugees as indicated by the chart below. Over 35 languages are spoken in the schools and the City. In Burlington High School, 30% are students of color; 21.6% are of non- English language background; 15% take English Language Learner classes. According to the American Community Survey 2007-2011, over 10% of Burlington households speak a language other than English at home. In South Burlington, that number is 9.8% and in Winooski that number is 16.5%. Winooski and Burlington represent the concentrations of immigrants in Chittenden County whose overall percentage of households speaking a language other than English is 8.3%. The City will continue to invest in social, economic and educational equity projects, as well as English as a second language.

Need Determination

The City has a limited capacity to fund social services out of municipal resources and has historically used the maximum (15%) available CDBG resources to support the provision of social services by local nonprofits. However, with the significant decrease of federal funds, it is critical to prioritize and target these funds to maximize their impact on the City's low-income citizens.

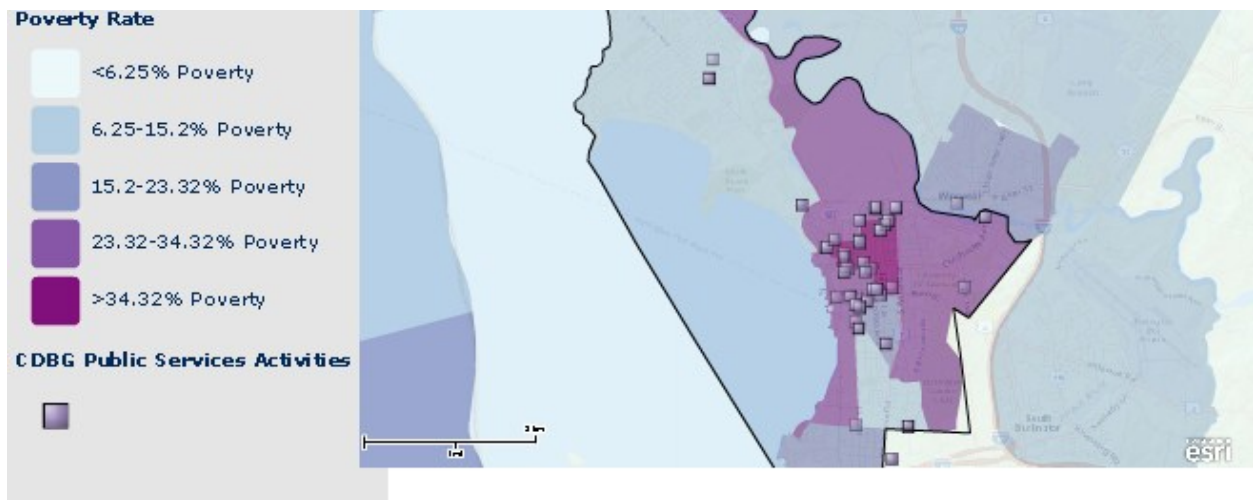
Several sources were considered to determine these public service needs. A citizen survey was distributed to all CDBG subgrantees, CoC member agencies and local citizens and published online. Approximately 100 citizens responded with their top ten priorities. Other municipal plans and documents were examined including planBTV, 2006 Municipal Development Plan, Waterfront Revitalization Plan, Committee on Accessibility, and the 2000 Legacy Action Plan and update.

As noted in the following map, the City has targeted most of its funding for Public Services Activities in the areas of highest concentration of poverty. The City will continue to target its shrinking Public Services resources to serving the most vulnerable populations of the City.

In addition to these plans, public service needs were also determined and discussed within the homeless and special needs sections, the child care assessment and transportation needs subsequently.

This increasing equity need, which is also confirmed by the increase in refugees noted in the corresponding chart, highlights a continued need to invest in projects that focus on bridging the gaps of disparity with our new American population.

CPD Maps



Child Care Needs Assessment

As of the 2011 American Community Survey, 66.5% of all Burlington children under six - and 74.1% of all children ages 6 to 17 - were living with parents who were all working. Those were higher percentages than the national averages of 64.6% and 70.6%, respectively.

Available, affordable child care is a prerequisite to labor force participation for many households, and particularly for female-headed households. The availability of child care also affects the ability of parents to upgrade their skills through career education and vocational training.

The remaining information in this section comes from Child Care Resource and the Child Development Division of the Vermont Department for Children and Families.

The affordability of child care for families is a pressing issue. The income eligibility levels to qualify for child care subsidy are set to offer help to families up to 200% of the poverty level. The program now offers help to fewer and fewer eligible families. The first chart gives a sense of the percent of subsidy paid at various income levels. In 2008, there were 503 Burlington children receiving a subsidy; in March 2013, there are 637 Burlington children receiving a subsidy and 1,687 in Chittenden County.

The second chart shows the covered subsidy amount versus the weekly market rate for child care. There continues to be a significant gap between the actual market rate for care and the amount covered by the child care subsidy. For example, at the infant level for a child care center, a single mom with two children would end up paying an additional \$75 a week from or more than 20% of her gross pay.

According to Child Care Resource, as of July 2012, during a typical week, approximately 6,800 children birth through 12 attend a regulated child care program in Chittenden County. The availability for space in these programs ranges from 1% to 4% adding to the uncertainty of finding reliable child care. Over 63% of child care searches are for the small group of children ages birth to two, demonstrating the difficulty of finding child care for infants and toddlers. The third chart shows the vacancy rate for local programs and the current need as of July 2012.

Programs may be recognized for quality in the child care field through accreditation with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the National Association of Family Child Care (NAFCC) or be recognized for quality through the State of Vermont Step Ahead to Recognition System (STARS). Across all programs, 84 in Chittenden County are recognized for high quality and 58 have received formal accreditation.

The affordability and availability of child care are based on federal and state subsidy issues as well as industry employment standards. The City will continue to work with the child care community to find solutions including current efforts with Building Bright Futures and providing technical assistance to providers.

Vermont Child Care Subsidy Program

% of Subsidy Paid by the State	Family Size			
	3 or Fewer	4	5	6 or more
100%	\$18,300	\$22,044	\$25,788	\$29,532
50%	\$29,100	\$35,040	\$40,992	\$46,956
10%	\$36,600	\$44,088	\$51,576	\$59,064

Weekly Child Care Subsidy Amount

Type of Care: Full Time	Weekly Subsidy - 100%	Weekly Market Rate	Weekly out of pocket expense: 100% eligible	Annual out of pocket expense: 100% eligible	Gap	Weekly out of pocket expense: 50% eligible	Annual out of pocket expense: 50% eligible
Family Child Care							
Infant	\$114.29	\$162.00	\$47.71	\$2,481	29%	\$95.42	\$4,962
Toddler	\$110.00	\$153.00	\$43.00	\$2,236	28%	\$86.00	\$4,472
Preschool	\$98.86	\$152.00	\$53.14	\$2,763	35%	\$106.28	\$5,527
Child Care Center							
Infant	\$137.14	\$212.00	\$74.86	\$3,893	35%	\$149.72	\$7,785
Toddler	\$133.43	\$201.00	\$67.57	\$3,514	34%	\$135.14	\$7,027
Preschool	\$129.60	\$188.00	\$58.40	\$3,037	31%	\$116.80	\$6,074

Child Care Vacancy Rate

Type of Program	# of Programs	# of Slots	# of Openings	Chittenden Vacancy Rate
Child Care Center	53	2,817	122	4%
Family Child Care Home	160	1,238	94	7%
Preschool	56	1,541	48	5%
School Age (After-School)	41	1,733	67	4%

Transportation Needs/Services

According to the Citizen Participation Survey for this Consolidated Plan, the need for transportation services ranked 4th in the list of services. This narrative explains the transit system and services as well as alternative car programs in the City.

As of the 2010 Census, around 4,220 residents – or 19.4% of the Burlington workforce – were walking to work, and around 1100 Burlington residents were using public transportation to get to work. For workers who use the bus to get to work, there is fairly good coverage Monday through Saturday during regular work hours. Service during second and third shift hours and on Sundays and holidays is limited.

Chittenden County Transit Authority's (CCTA) network of 19 bus routes extends throughout eight cities and towns in the greater Burlington area.

CCTA measures its success on the percentage of trips in the region that is made on public transportation, also known as the transit mode share. In 2000, the transit mode share was estimated to be 1.4% of all trips made within the six core communities of Chittenden County. By 2010, it was estimated that the transit mode share increased to 2.4% based on the growth of CCTA ridership compared to overall traffic growth.

Public transportation to areas outside the City does not reach a number of significant job centers because CCTA is dependent on local property tax revenues from only five local participating municipalities – Burlington, South Burlington, Essex, Winooski, and Shelburne – and its services are concentrated in those member communities. CCTA does offer ridesharing services in other communities, bus service outside the county to Middlebury, Montpelier and St. Albans, a fixed-route segment in Colchester, and services in the town of Williston under the Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) program. CCTA provides ADA complementary paratransit and some Medicaid transportation services through a contract with the Special Services Transportation Agency (SSTA), a private non-profit organization that provides van transportation services for people with specialized mobility needs, primarily the elderly and persons with disabilities. There are identified concerns with wheelchair access and treatment of people with disabilities accessing busses that must be addressed. Bus passes are available to low-income residents; students and children ride free.

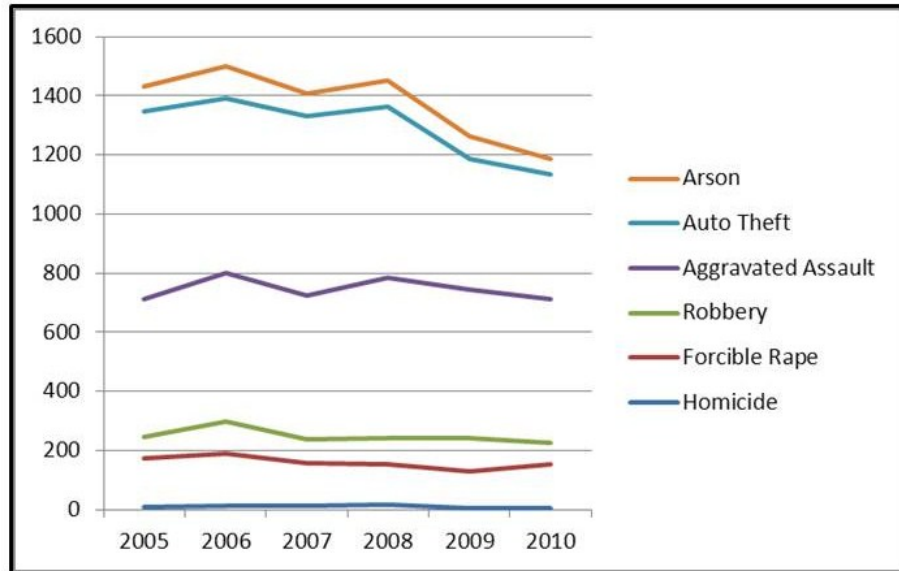
Single-occupancy vehicles remain a primary means of transportation to work. According to the 2010 Census, 65% of Burlington workers drove alone in their cars to get to work. The American Community Survey 2009-2011 notes that 10% of Burlington workers carpooled to work and on the average, those who commuted by car spent an average of 17 minutes to get to work. Transportation costs for those who drive to work are increasing. The average retail price of a gallon of gasoline in April of 2011 was \$3.70 and in April of 2012, the price rose to \$3.915. There are programs that assist low and moderate income citizens to access cars and can reduce the need to own a car.

The Good News Garage provides donated refurbished vehicles to low-income workers, including vehicles to Reach Up program participants, as well as job-related rides to low-income workers and to and from childcare in their Ready to Go program.

Crime Report I

Crime Report I – Vermont

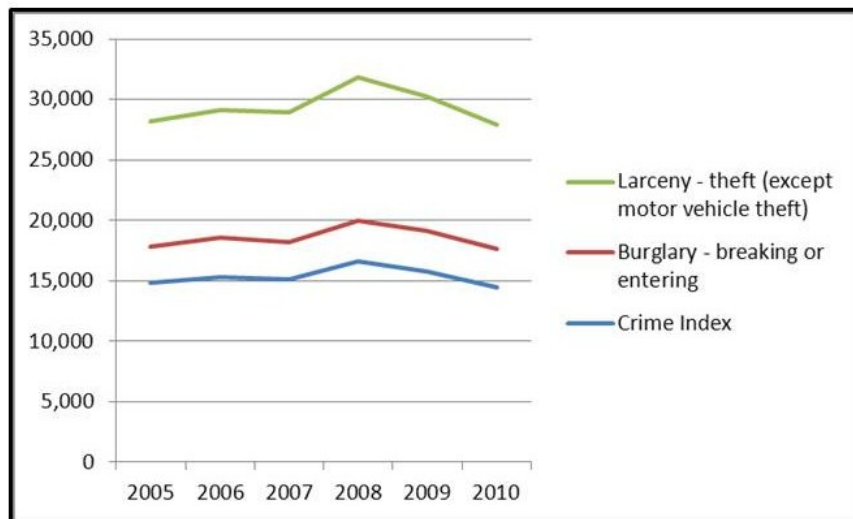
VCIC.vermont.gov/crime_statistics/crime_report



Crime Report II

Crime Report II – Vermont

VCIC.vermont.gov/crime_statistics/crime_report



Refugee Arrivals

